Plastic Egg Parachute

Kit contains:

- ½ plastic egg
- 1 coffee filter
- 1 plastic animal
- 1 transparent circle
- 2 popsicle sticks
- 2 straws

You will need: tape and scissors.

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INSTRUCTIONS

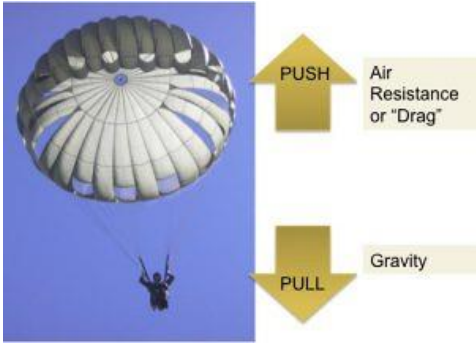
Step 1. Choose either popsicle sticks or straws to use as connectors. Tape them to either side of your plastic egg half, as seen in the picture.

Step 2. Choose either your coffee filter or the transparent circle as your parachute. Tape your chosen connectors to the inside of your parachute, as seen in the picture.

Step 3. Throw your egg parachute into the air or drop it from a greater height (with adult permission). Now experiment! How long does it take your parachute to drift to the ground? How long does it take when you allow your plastic figurine to go for a ride?

HOW DO PARACHUTES WORK?

Air resistance and gravity are two forces at play that allow a parachute to float. Gravity is what pulls it down, and the air resistance, or drag, is working opposite to that. The air around us may look like nothing at all, but in reality it's made up of many molecules. The surface area and material of the parachute allows less air molecules to flow through it, creating drag that forces the parachute to drift more slowly and safely to the ground.



TIME TO EXPERIMENT!

1. Test your plastic egg parachute using different materials for the parachute. Which one allows for a slower descent: the coffee filter or the transparent circle?
2. Test the parachute using different materials for the connectors. Which one allows for a slower descent: the popsicle sticks or the straws?
3. Does the parachute work better if you toss it into the air or if you drop it from a greater height? How does it affect the way your parachute falls?
4. How many times can you throw your parachute in the air and catch it again?
5. What other materials could you use to improve upon this project? Use materials from home if you're able and see how it affects the experiment.